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BLEEDING, CLOTTING EVENTS POST COVID JABS MINUSCULE

National Adverse Event Following Immunisation Committee (AEFI) said 26 potential cases were reported after the drive

0.61 CASES PER MILLION COVISHIELD SHOTS

The health ministry data said of the 23,000 adverse events after jabs, only 700 or 9.3 cases/million doses were serious. The AEFI reviewed 498 such cases and found 26 potential thromboembolic (clots in blood vessel) events, pegging the reporting rate at 0.61 cases/million Covishield doses. It reported no potential thromboembolic events after Covaxin jabs | P7

FIGURE LOWER COMPARED TO UK, GERMANY

- The analysis followed global reports of embolic and thrombotic events after AstraZeneca-Oxford (Covishield) shots in March
- Figures in India are much lower than the four cases/million doses reported in the UK or 10 events per million doses in Germany
- AEFI in-depth study sample was based on jab figures till April 3

70%

LESS RISK OF AEFI AMONG SOUTHEAST ASIANS THAN EUROPEANS: PANEL

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Amid Covid crisis, lockdown may be extended, hints CM

Decision yet to be taken on duration; financial package for vulnerable sections being planned

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister B S Yediyurappa on Monday said the government is contemplating extending the lockdown currently in force in Karnataka. However the number of days, is yet to be decided.

Speaking to the media after a meeting with district Deputy Commissioners, Zilla Panchayat CEOs, Superintendents of Police from across the State, the Chief Minister said that a financial assistance package for the poor, affected by the lockdown, was also being considered. "The existing 14-day lockdown will end on May 24. We are still discussing how many days of extension will be required. A final decision will be taken in a couple of days," he said.

During the first wave of Covid-19 and corresponding lockdown last year, Karnataka was one of the first states to announce an economic relief package for farmers, cab and auto drivers, barbers, washermen, etc., apart from subsidies and incentives for MSMEs and small businesses.

The Chief Minister's subtle hint at an extension of the lockdown comes close on the heels of ministers, like R Ashok, Dr K Sudhakar, publicly speaking about extending the curbs since the caseload in the state is still quite high. While cases have been reducing significantly in Bengaluru, tier-2 and tier-3 cities and rural areas have been witnessing a spike.

Sources in the government suggest that while a lockdown may be imminent, additional restrictions are unlikely. A lockdown extension is on the cards, especially considering that the vaccination drive for those aged 18-44 has temporarily been suspended in the state.

K'TAKA SECOND WAVE BATTLE

6,03,639 TOTAL ACTIVE CASES	34,635 Recoveries
38,603 Test positive on Monday	476 Deaths
97,236 Samples Tested on Monday	1,12,60,587 TOTAL VACCINATIONS
39.70% Positivity Rate	1.23% Case Fatality Rate

Strong waves pummel a promenade near the Gateway of India, as the cyclone passes by the Mumbai coast. The Meteorological Department has reclassified Tauktae as 'very severe cyclonic storm'. Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Maharashtra and Gujarat CMs Uddhav Thakeray and Vijay Rupani, respectively, and assured them of help | PTI

Tauktae kills 6 in Maha before Gujarat landfall

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mumbai

TROPICAL cyclone Tauktae, which formed in the Arabian Sea, made landfall in Gujarat late on Monday night. The cyclonic storm, packing wind speeds up to 210 kmph, pummeled the west coast before landfall between Porbandar and Mahuva in Bhavnagar district around 9.30 pm.

En route to Gujarat, Tauktae left a trail of destruction in Maharashtra, where the coastal districts bore the brunt of heavy rains accompanied by squally winds, which uprooted trees and electricity poles, damaged over 2,000 houses and left at least six persons dead. Over 12,000 people were relocated from the coastal areas.

Authorities in Gujarat evacuated around 1.5 lakh people from low-lying areas, besides deploying 54 teams NDRF and SDRF teams. Three major airports — Ahmedabad, Surat and Vadodara — have been closed till Tuesday, officials said.

Over 55 flights to and from Mumbai were cancelled after the city airport suspended operations for the day as wind speeds gusted to 114 kmph. P8

TWO BARGES ADRIFT WITH 410 ABOARD

The severe cyclonic storm de-anchored two barges at the Bombay High with 410 personnel but all of them were safe. The Indian Navy has deployed three frontline warships to rescue the people aboard the barges

Prospect of good monsoon raises hopes of farmers

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

AMIDST the pandemic and the havoc caused by Cyclone Tauktae, farmers in the state may have something to look forward to. With just weeks left for the monsoon to arrive, meteorologists say that most of Karnataka will receive normal to above normal rainfall while some regions will get normal or below normal rainfall. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has said that the South-West monsoon will hit Kerala by June 1 and is expected to enter Karnataka by the first week of June.

Speaking to *TNIE*, former director, Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre and senior consultant G S Srinivasa Reddy said as per the IMD prediction, this monsoon Karnataka will get good rain.

CONTINUED ON: P5

Narada scam: 3 TMC MLAs in CBI net

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

THE CBI on Monday created a big flutter by arresting three newly elected Trinamool Congress lawmakers — two of them ministers — and a former Trinamool minister and mayor of Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC), who had joined the BJP but later resigned, in connection with the 2014 Narada sting operation. While a special court granted all four interim bail, the Calcutta High Court stayed it following a CBI appeal. They will now be in judicial custody till the HC hears their case on Wednesday.

The arrests were made following prosecution sanction given by Governor Jagdeep Dhankar. But the Trinamool called it illegal as the CBI had not sought the Speaker's permission. "The CBI did not seek my permission to arrest the MLAs. I received no letter from them," said Speaker Biman Banerjee.

Early in the morning, CBI sleuths raided the apartments and houses of panchayat minister Subrata Mukherjee, a veteran in Bengal politics, urban development and transport minister Firhad Hakim, who is also administrator of the KMC, Trinamool MLA from Kamarhati, North 24 Parganas, Madan Mitra and Sovan Chatterjee, former mayor of KMC, and arrested them. P8

JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT

May 16: 17,33,232 doses

May 17: 17,33,232 doses

TOTAL DOSES: 18,22,20,106

NATIONWIDE	MAY 16	MAY 17
Fresh cases	3,11,170	2,81,386
Recoveries	3,62,437	3,78,741
Deaths	4,077	4,106

'Demand shock' to add to India Inc's distress: RBI

SESA SEN @ New Delhi

THE second Covid wave could push businesses into further distress with a 'demand shock' as people — and companies — are holding on to their purses due to falling incomes, job losses, and an overall weak consumer sentiment, according to the Reserve Bank of India.

"High frequency indicators suggest that the biggest toll of the second wave is in terms of a demand shock – loss of mobility, discretionary spending and employment, besides inventory accumulation, while the aggregate supply is less impacted," RBI said in its monthly bulletin for May, released on Monday.

Painting even a bleaker picture for the economy, RBI said its recent projections were "extremely tentative" given the disproportionate base effects. It added that it might have to revise its GDP growth forecast of 26.2% for the first quarter "made before the full fury of the resurgence".

CONTINUED ON: P10

179 BLACK FUNGUS CASES, 14 DEATHS IN 8 B'LURU HOSPITALS

RANJANI MADHAVAN @ Bengaluru

EIGHT private and government hospitals in Bengaluru alone have recorded 179 cases of Mucormycosis, or Black Fungus disease, among Covid-19 and post-Covid-19 patients, data collected by The New Indian Express has revealed. Of the 179, this dreaded condition has caused 54 of Covid and post-Covid patients to suffer vision loss, while there have been 14 deaths.

Mucormycosis is an opportunistic fungal infection occurring in Covid-19 patients whose immunity levels are heavily compromised due to the viral disease. Taking advantage of this, the Mucorlean fungus - which is commonly the early coloniser resulting in black fungal growth in decaying organic matter - attacks the sinus before making its way below the eye socket and the internal lining of the skull.

Dr Gaurav Medikeri, programme director of Endoscopic Skull Base Surgery, HCG Cancer Hospital, reported 60 patients, four of whom with problems of the eye, but there were no deaths.

At Apollo Hospitals, 25 cases have been reported, including one patient with total vision loss and three with partial vision loss. Dr Satish Nair, ENT, Apollo Hospitals, said, initially the symptoms start with blocked nose, loss of sensation in the teeth, cheek and watery nose. Then it spreads to the eyes, and causes swelling, redness, double vision and even loss of vision. "In the initial stages, with treatment, the patient does well. But once there is vision loss, we do not get good results. And when there is involvement of the brain, which is the third stage, the prognosis is poor, leading to death. Here, symptoms include sinus, loss of sensorium, fits, high fever, difficulty in breathing, depending on which part of the brain is affected, weakness, stroke, hemorrhage, etc," Dr Nair explained.

At Minto Eye Hospital, Director Dr Sujatha Rathod said 32 cases have been reported, including 20 who came to their OPD. Fifteen of them were referred to Bowring Hospital, and five admitted in the Covid-19 ward. Totally, 11 patients in the Covid-19 ward had black fungus and all of them suffered vision loss in one or both eyes. Four died while two others were discharged. P4

EXPRESS READ

WPI inflation hits double digits in April at 10.49 pc

New Delhi: The wholesale price-based inflation shot up to an all-time high of 10.49 per cent in April, on rising prices of food items, crude oil and manufactured goods, and experts believe that the uptrend is likely to continue. This is the fourth straight month of uptick seen in the wholesale price index. The low base in April last year also contributed to the spike in April 2021.

3 killed in encounter between Naxals & police

Bijapur: Three persons were killed in an exchange of fire between Naxals and security forces in a forest along the border of Bijapur and Sukma districts in Chhattisgarh on Monday, a police official said. It was yet to be ascertained whether the deceased were Naxals or civilians, he said, adding that there was no casualty among the security personnel involved in the battle.

HELP FOR HUSBAND

ASHA worker too can't get hospital bed in time

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

AMIDST all the claims and assurances of a 'streamlined' bed allocation system in Mysuru, an ASHA worker herself was made to knock on the doors of various hospitals in Mysuru and had to rush to Mandya district in a private cab just to find a bed for her Covid-19 infected husband.

The ordeal of the ASHA worker, who hails from Chamanahalli, Bannur, in T Narasipur taluk, continued all through Sunday till late evening on Monday despite calls to the district war room and visits to the Covid Mitras as well as physical triaging centres in the district as well as a frantic hospital run in Mandya.

According to Kanyakumari, her husband Swamy (42), who has a host of co-morbidities, had tested positive for the disease. "In our taluk and also in Mysuru, our superiors asked us to isolate him at home. But his oxygen saturation level was rapidly falling below 85, his sugar level was in excess of 200 and his health was deteriorating. He needed medical help. Moreover, ours is a small house with a single washroom,"

Kanyakumari with her husband, Swamy, in Mysuru | UDAYSHANKAR S

Kanyakumari said.

The visit to Covid Mitras did not help and calls to the district war room yielded nothing. "They said we will be contacted, but to no avail. Since he complained of uneasiness, we rushed him to Seth Mohandas Tulsidas Hospital in Mysuru but they refused to admit us. Every other government hospital turned him away. Private hospitals demanded advance payment in excess of Rs 50,000 to admit him," she said.

Dejected, she rushed him to Mandya where doctors asked to get the patient admitted, but washed their hands off saying there were no beds.

CONTINUED ON: P6